



N. B. BARROW

COMMANDING OFFICER

USS BENNINGTON CV5-20

Dear Guests ,

The officers and men of Bennington welcome you aboard one of America's proud warships. While she is an elderly lady, she has recently had a face lifting and several transplants which have renewed her confidence and given her new vigor.

Bennington is the flag ship of COMASMGU TRKX commanded by Rear Admiral Norman C. Gillette. With Air Group 50 on board and the six destroyers of Destroyer Squadron 29, Bennington is an integral part of a very formidable force of ships and aircraft which operate as a team in the front line of our nation's defense against the growing Soviet submarine threat.

Speed and mobility are the fundamentally important characteristics of the force. Ranging for hundreds of miles over the seas, Bennington can launch aircraft to search thousands of square miles for enemy submarines. It can move rapidly into position so that our attack forces may concentrate their effort.

With our large capacity of fuel and stores we can operate at sea for long periods while supporting the task force destroyers with fuel, supplies and technical help.

You will find life on board quite vigorous and challenging for the crew, but you will find a sense of excitement and accomplishment which makes their experience at sea a source of great pride.

During the course of your tour, I particularly encourage you to take every opportunity to talk with the young men on the ship. They expect this and look forward to meeting and talking with you.

We hope you enjoy your visit and that your experience with us will be worth the time and effort you have sacrificed to be with us.

Sincerely,

NBBarrow

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